

PERSONNEL AND TRAINING BUREAU

NOTICE

October 30, 1992

TO: All Department Personnel

FROM: Acting Commanding Officer, Personnel and Training Bureau

SUBJECT: REVISED PROCEDURES -- CORD-CUFF LEG RESTRAINER

The cord-cuff leg restrainer is used daily by members of this Department to control combative or violent arrestees without injury. However, recent medical evidence suggests that the use of the cord-cuff leg restrainer on arrestees with certain pre-existing medical conditions can result in serious injury or death. The cause of these injuries and deaths has been identified as "positional asphyxia." Since it is not possible to determine if an arrestee has a pre-existing medical condition, the following procedures shall be followed each time the cord-cuff leg restrainer is used to secure an arrestee's legs to the chain of his/her handcuffs:

1. The arrestee SHALL IMMEDIATELY be placed on his/her side. The arrestee SHALL NOT be allowed to roll into a "face/chest" downward position.
2. At least one officer shall continuously monitor the arrestee as long as he/she is secured as described above. An arrestee who exhibits difficulty breathing or other symptoms requiring medical attention shall be immediately taken to a medical facility, unless paramedics are treating the arrestee or there is a medical need to keep the suspect at the location pending the arrival of paramedics.
3. The arrestee shall be transported as soon as possible to an appropriate medical or jail facility where he/she can be safely secured without the use of a cord-cuff restrainer.

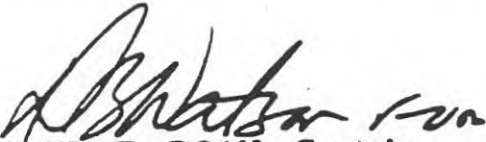
NOTE: At least one officer shall at all times continuously monitor the arrestee as long as the arrestee is secured as described above.

4. In accordance with Department Manual Section 4/217.52, officers shall request an ambulance to transport the arrestee to the appropriate medical or jail facility. If it is not practical or possible to transport the arrestee by ambulance, then at least two officers shall transport the arrestee in the following manner:
 - a. The arrestee shall be placed on his/her side in the rear seat of a police vehicle with the face/chest area facing the front seat.


- b. To facilitate the continuous monitoring of an arrestee by the passenger officer, the arrestee should be placed in the vehicle with his/her head behind the driver, and the passenger officer should ride in the front passenger seat. If an officer must be in the rear seat of the police vehicle to safely transport an arrestee, another officer should ride in the front passenger seat to assist in the monitoring of the arrestee.

It continues to be the policy of the Los Angeles Police Department to use the cord-cuff leg restrainer for the least amount of time necessary to control an arrestee and nothing in this notice changes that policy. This notice amends the Training Bulletin titled "Use of Force Restraining Procedures and Devices," Volume XVIII, Issue 2, dated April, 1986. A new training bulletin will be published as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or suggestions for ways to improve the above procedures, please contact Sergeant Mark Conta, Officer-In-Charge, Physical Training Unit, Training Division at (213) 485-3151.


DAVID R. DOAN, Captain
Acting Commanding Officer
Personnel and Training Bureau

APPROVED:


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